

had an understanding that I would explain the motion, that the gentleman would make her comments, and then the gentleman would close and we could yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I apologize to the gentleman. I guess I did not understand exactly. But that is fine with me. No problem whatsoever.

Mr. OBEY. Fine. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for yielding me this time, and if that is not pleasing to the distinguished chairman of the committee, I am pleased to yield to him first. If it is okay, then I will proceed.

Madam Speaker, once again I wish to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for his leadership on this important issue, important to America's workers. Today, we have an opportunity to do the right thing for America's aviation workers.

Both the House and Senate versions of the supplemental appropriations bill include financial assistance for the airlines, as they should. Aviation is an essential cornerstone of the U.S. economy. Both the House and Senate bills focus primarily on mitigating for the cost of security provisions required by the Federal Government, as those bills should have that funding. But we cannot ignore the workers who form the backbone of the aviation industry.

Madam Speaker, at least 150,000 workers in the aviation industry have lost their jobs since 9/11, including those who work for the airlines and related industries. Many of these workers have exhausted their unemployment benefits, and that was months ago. But with the industry still contracting, new jobs are impossible to find. Thousands more airline workers have lost their jobs since the Iraq war began and layoffs in the industry could reach 70,000 more. Concern about the exposure to the deadly SARS disease in Asia is now reducing air travel from the U.S. to Asia even further.

The Senate has included \$225 million for extended unemployment compensation for aviation workers. The House should recede to the Senate position.

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Madam Speaker, it is the least that we can do. I urge Members to vote for relief for aviation workers. To support the Obey motion to instruct conferees, vote for the motion to instruct.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am not really opposed to what the gentleman is suggesting here. The Committee on Appropriations did add \$3.2 billion to the wartime supplemental to deal with airline issues and to be helpful to the air-

line industry. So there is plenty of money to handle this issue, but I am going to vote against it because of the problems it could cause as we go to conference.

We have a tight schedule. The committees on both sides of the aisle have worked extremely well. Just a few days after receiving the President's request, the Committee on Appropriations reported the bill to the House. As Members know, last Thursday we passed this bill with an overwhelming vote in the House.

However, there are some significant differences between our bill and the bill presented by the other body. I just have the feeling this is going to be a fairly difficult conference because, while the House kept the bill very clean and close to what the President requested, to fight the war and provide for homeland security and to support those of our coalition who are helping us in this war effort, the other body, frankly, added quite a few things that were extraneous to the wartime issue; and that is going to make the conference a little difficult.

I want to get this conference completed. Leadership has advised me, as well as most of the Members, that we are not going to take our Easter district work period recess until this bill has left the Congress and has gone to the President since it is important to what the President is doing in Iraq. I will vote against this motion. I want to again emphasize we need to move this bill quickly. If the conference gets tied up for more than 2 days, we will not get this bill to the floor in time for the House to take its usual Easter recess. In addition, I am opposed to motions to instruct in general. I have no objection to what the gentleman wants to do, but it is just procedural for me. I think it could complicate the conference on this very important wartime supplemental.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

NUTRIA ERADICATION AND CONTROL ACT OF 2003

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 273) to provide for the eradication and control of nutria in Maryland and Louisiana.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 273

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Wetlands and tidal marshes of the Chesapeake Bay and in Louisiana provide significant cultural, economic, and ecological benefits to the Nation.

(2) The South American nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) is directly contributing to substantial marsh loss in Maryland and Louisiana on Federal, State, and private land.

(3) Traditional harvest methods to control or eradicate nutria have failed in Maryland and have had limited success in the eradication of nutria in Louisiana. Consequently, marsh loss is accelerating.

(4) The nutria eradication and control pilot program authorized by Public Law 105-322 is to develop new and effective methods for eradication of nutria.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for a program to implement measures to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

SEC. 3. NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM.

(a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), subject to the availability of appropriations, may provide financial assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for a program to implement measures to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

(b) GOALS.—The goals of the program shall be to—

(1) eradicate nutria in Maryland;

(2) eradicate or control nutria in Louisiana and other States; and

(3) restore marshland damaged by nutria.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—In the State of Maryland, the Secretary shall require that the program consist of management, research, and public education activities carried out in accordance with the document published by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service entitled "Eradication Strategies for Nutria in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay Watersheds", dated March 2002.

(d) COST SHARING.—

(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of the program.

(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of the program may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.